

present I know no genus with which it could be identified. It is a curious thing to find such numerous and varied reptiles in the Primary formations, which for a long time seemed to paleontologists to be almost destitute of them. The discovery in the Permian of a highly organized reptile like *Stereorachis*, or those lately indicated in North America by Prof. Cope, leads us to expect others; these animals are so far from the initial state of reptiles to lead us to suppose that before them there were many generations of ancestors, and that some day, no doubt, we shall meet with their remains even in the Devonian.—*Comptes Rendus*, Oct. 18, 1880, p. 669.

A new Genus of Rodents from Algeria.

M. Ferdinand Lataste has recently described a remarkable Rodent, which he obtained in the Algerian Sahara, as the type of a new genus of Muridæ, which he names *Pachyuromys*. It belongs to the subfamily Gerbillinæ; and its most striking external character is its tail, which is short, claviform, greatly swollen, and apparently naked, its minute annulations and fine white hairs not concealing the rosy tint of the skin in the living animal. Still more remarkable is the structure of its skull, in which the auditory bullæ are so greatly developed behind that they are only separated by a groove, about 5 millims. in depth, at the bottom of which lies the foramen magnum. Mr. Alston informs M. Lataste that such a development of the bullæ, both in their tympanic and more especially in their mastoid portions, is not met with in any genus of Muridæ with which he is acquainted, and that a parallel can only be found in the Geomyidæ, in the North-American genus *Dipodomys*.

Pachyuromys Duprasi, of which M. Lataste possesses several living specimens, is a small animal, measuring about 100 millims. in length of head and body, and 40 millims. in that of the tail; the upper parts are fawn-colour, the lower pure white. Its discoverer promises a more detailed description, with figures of the animal and its skull and observations on its habits.—‘*La Natureliste*,’ ii. pp. 313–315 (Nov. 15, 1880).

Researches on the Comparative Anatomy of the Nervous System in the different Orders of the Class of Insects. By M. E. BRANDT.

In 1879 I had the honour of bringing before the Academy my investigations upon the nervous system of insects*. The present note contains the principal results of my comparative researches upon the nervous system in the different orders of the class Insecta.

The nervous system of the *Coleoptera* has been studied in a great many representatives of various families by M. E. Blanchard†. This naturalist is the only one who has studied it as a whole; and

* *Comptes Rendus*, tome lxxxix. pp. 475–477.

† *Ann. Sci. Nat.* 3^e sér. tome v. (1846).